

WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. B. FISHER, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH

TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY, &C.,

FOR THE YEAR 1908.



WHITEHAVEN :

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To the Whitehaven Rural District Council.

77, LOWTHER STREET,

WHITEHAVEN,

17th February, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report, as Medical Officer of Health for the Whitehaven Rural District, for the year 1908, with the usual tables showing the birth and death-rates for the year compared with those of previous years, and a general summary of the cases of infectious disease notified and the sanitary improvements effected during the year.

The birth and death-rates are calculated on a population of 13,000, which is practically the population as ascertained at the census of 1901, and the same as has been used since that year. The higher estimate for the few preceding years being due to alterations in the boundary of the district.

Three hundred and seventy-four births were registered during the year, which is equivalent to a birth-rate of 28·77 per thousand of population per annum, and 1·25 below the average of 30·02 for the ten preceding years. One hundred and ninety-two boys were born during the year, and one hundred and eighty-two girls.

The total number of deaths registered in the district, from all causes and at all ages, during the year was one hundred and seventy-three, giving a death-rate of 13·31 per thousand per annum, which is 1·43 below the average of 14·74 per thousand per annum for the ten preceding years. To these, however, must be added, in order to obtain the actual number of deaths of persons belonging to the district, one death which occurred in the Union Workhouse, two which occurred in the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, one in the Infirmary, Blackburn, and one in Strathclyde House, Carlisle, whilst one, which occurred in Galemire Hospital of a patient admitted from the Harrington Urban District, has to be deducted, making the number of deaths of persons occurring in or belonging to the district one hundred and seventy-seven, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 13·62 per thousand per annum, or 0·94 below the average of 14·56 for the previous ten years.

Thirty-four deaths of infants under one year of age were registered during the year, giving an infantile death-rate of 2·62 per thousand of population per annum, which is 0·8 below the average of 3·42 for the ten preceding years. The number of births registered during the year being, as already stated, three hundred and seventy-four, the infant death-rate per thousand births registered was 91, which is 23·3 below the average of 114·3 for the previous ten years.

In addition to the thirty-four deaths of infants there were registered during the year sixteen deaths of children between one and five years of age, making a total of fifty deaths of children under five years of age, equivalent to a death-rate of 3·85, which is 1·02 below the average of 4·87 for the previous ten years.

Fifty-one deaths occurred of persons over sixty-five of age, giving a senile death-rate of 3·92, or 0·69 below the average of 4·61 for the ten preceding years.

From the eight principal zymotic diseases enumerated in Table VI., fifteen deaths were registered—seven from Whooping Cough, four from Diphtheria, and four from Diarrhœa—giving a zymotic death-rate of 1·15 per thousand of population per annum, compared with an average of 0·96 for the ten previous years.

The figures, therefore, for the year 1908, bear favourable comparison with those for previous years, the death-rates at different ages being lower, and it is especially satisfactory to observe the low infant mortality, whether reckoned per thousand of population or per thousand births registered.

It is also satisfactory to find that the number of cases of infectious disease was much below the average. Only forty one cases were notified during the year under the “Infectious Disease (Notification) Act,” the average number during the eighteen previous years during which the Act has been in force being eighty-four. Table IX. shews the parishes in which cases of infectious disease occurred, and the number of cases in each of these parishes during the year 1908. Eighteen of the cases notified were Scarlet Fever, eight Erysipelas, twelve Diphtheria, two Membranous Croup, and one Enteric Fever. The last-mentioned was an imported case and was removed to Galemire Hospital. Ten cases of Scarlet Fever and six of Diphtheria were also taken to hospital. None of these diseases assumed epidemic prevalence during the year. Seven of the cases of Diphtheria occurred in one household, the patients being all infected from one indefinite

case which had not in the first instance been recognised. In all cases of removal to hospital, the rooms the patients had occupied were carefully disinfected, and when the patients were treated at their own homes, disinfectants and instructions for their use were supplied, and on the termination of the case the same precautions were taken as after removal to hospital.

The District has, throughout the year, been more than usually exempt also from those troublesome infectious diseases of a minor character which do not come under the provisions of the Notification Act. Cases of Whooping Cough and Mumps have occurred, but it has not been necessary to close any school during the year on account of infectious disease.

The usual systematic inspections of the various parts of the district have been made during the year, and special attention has been given to cowsheds in which are housed cattle used for dairy purposes. The Abstract of the Regulations made by the Rural District Council under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, to which I referred in my last Annual Report, has been circulated and affixed in the cowsheds. In many cases notices have been served on owners to make structural alterations, to provide better lighting and ventilation, to re-pave and re-channel cowsheds, and to make other improvements. These have all been satisfactorily complied with, and a decided advance has been made in the attention given to regular removal of manure and the promotion of general cleanliness. No doubt a good deal remains to be done in this respect, but I think the past year's progress is, on the whole, satisfactory.

The duties imposed by the "Factory and Workshop Act, 1901," upon Local Authorities, have been duly carried out during the year. All registered workshops have been visited as occasion required, special attention being given to those in which it appeared likely that insanitary conditions might arise, or breaches of the Act occur. The result of our visits was quite satisfactory, the requirements of the Act being in all cases fulfilled, and there being no overcrowding or unwholesome conditions on which it was necessary to make special report. Six new workshops have been registered during the year, and three have ceased to be occupied. I append a table showing the number of workshops and the number of male and female employés engaged therein at the end of the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. B. FISHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—BIRTHS.

Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1000 per annum.
374	28.77

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 per ann.	30.29	29.35	30.83	29.23	30.3	30.23	29.92	29.15	33.23	27.69	28.77

TABLE II.—DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

Number of Deaths Registered.	Death-rate per 1000 per annum.
177	13.62

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 per ann.	13.45	15.14	19.09	13.74	15.07	13.31	13.92	14.69	13.31	13.92	13.62

TABLE III.—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR
OF AGE.

Number of Deaths.	Death-rate.	
	Per 1000 of Population.	Per 1000 Births Registered.
34	2.62	91

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS,

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 of pop.	2.73	3.26	5.19	3.05	3.31	3.31	3.23	3.53	2.93	3.69	2.62
Per 1000 Births Regd.	90.26	111.11	168.29	104.44	109.13	109.13	107.96	121.37	87.96	133.33	91

TABLE IV.—DEATHS UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 per annum.
50	3.85

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 per ann.	4.17	4.64	7.59	3.81	4.92	4.15	4.77	5.53	4.38	4.69	3.85

TABLE V.—DEATHS OF PERSONS OVER SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 per annum.
51	3.92

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 per ann.	5.55	6.74	6.09	3.59	4.38	3.92	4.46	3.38	4.15	3.85	3.92

TABLE VI.—DEATHS FROM EIGHT PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1908.

Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 per annum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.15

COMPARISON WITH TEN PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Per 1000 per ann.	0.5	0.72	2.78	0.68	0.46	0.46	0.84	1.53	1	0.61	1.15

TABLE VII.—SHOWING CHIEF OTHER CAUSES OF
DEATH IN 1908.

Influenza	...	...	...	...	5
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	4
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	16
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	7
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11
Pneumonia	...	...	...	..	20
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	...	3
Parturition, Accidents of	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	17
Accidents	...	...	...	...	13
Suicides	...	...	...	...	3
All other causes	...	...	...	...	53
					<hr/>
					162
Eight Zymotic Diseases, as above				...	15
					<hr/>
Total Deaths in 1908 (Nett)				...	177

TABLE VIII.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	Ages.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	14	...	3	8	3	..	..	6
Erysipelas	8	...	1	...	1	5	1	...
Scarlet Fever	18	...	4	11	3	..	...	10
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	41	...	8	19	7	6	1	17

Galemire Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated within the Whitehaven Rural District and provided by the Whitehaven Rural District Council and the Urban District Councils of Egremont, Harrington, Cleator Moor, and Arlecdon and Frizington jointly.

Total available beds, 32. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

TABLE IX.—SHEWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Parish.	Diphtheria including Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Total.	Cases Removed to Hospital.		
						Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.
Distington .	...	1	1	1	3	...	...	1
Ennerdale ..	7	...	...	...	7	6	...	...
Gosforth ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Hensingham	...	2	3	...	5	...	...	...
Lamplugh ...	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...
Moresby ...	...	2	8	...	10	...	6	...
Parton ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
St. Bees ...	1	...	3	...	4	...	3	...
St. Bridget	2	1	1	...	4	...	1	...
St. John ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Total ...	14	8	18	1	41	6	10	1

TABLE X.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING 1908.

Compared with those notified during each year since the Infectious
Disease (Notification) Act came into force in December, 1899.

Year.	Small- pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Mem- branous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Con- tinued Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Total
1890	...	81	8	...	4	2	2	1	98
1891	...	85	1	...	4	1	...	3	94
1892	...	25	...	...	...	2	...	7	34
1893	...	72	...	...	3	...	1	3	79
1894	1	107	...	...	...	...	...	3	111
1895	...	49	...	...	2	1	...	10	62
1896	...	154	2	3	1	1	...	9	170
1897	...	88	1	2	5	...	1	7	104
1898	...	88	4	1	5	...	...	10	108
1899	...	41	9	2	3	..	...	16	71
1900	...	22	3	...	2	...	...	5	32
1901	...	22	1	1	2	...	...	10	36
1902	...	65	2	1	2	...	...	12	82
1903	...	63	6	...	2	...	..	9	80
1904	...	94	1	...	1	...	..	11	107
1905	...	54	...	1	1	...	...	20	76
1906	...	106	7	...	3	...	...	14	130
1907	...	32	3	1	...	...	1	12	49
1908	...	18	12	2	1	...	...	8	41

TABLE XI.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Popula- tion estimāt'd to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- resid'nts regis- tered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Resi- dents regis- tered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		No.	Rate. *	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.					No.	Rate. *
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'd	No.	Rate. *					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1898.	13,900	421	30·29	38	90·26	221	15·89	40	34	...	187	13·45
1899.	13,800	405	29·35	45	111·11	253	18·33	49	44	...	209	15·14
1900.	13,300	410	30·83	69	168·29	262	19·69	12	8	...	254	19·09
1901.	13,100	383	29·23	40	104·44	177	13·51	1	1	4	180	13·74
1902.	13,000	394	30·3	43	109·13	187	14·38	...	...	9	196	15·07
1903.	13,000	393	30·23	43	109·13	165	12·69	3	3	11	173	13·31
1904.	13,000	389	29·92	42	107·96	174	13·38	..	...	7	181	13·92
1905.	13,000	379	29·15	46	121·37	180	13·84	5	2	13	191	14·69
1906.	13,000	432	33·23	38	87·96	161	12·38	1	...	12	173	13·31
1907.	13,000	360	27·69	48	133·33	173	13·31	1	...	8	181	13·92
Averages for years 1898-1907	13,210	396·6	30·022	45·2	114·298	195·3	14·74	11·2	9·2	6·4	192·5	14·564
1908.	13,000	374	28·77	34	91	173	13·31	1	1	5	177	13·62

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public Institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

The only Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District is Galemire Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District are (1)—Whitehaven Union Workhouse; (2)—Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary; (3)—The Infirmary, Blackburn; (4)—Strathclyde House, Carlisle.

Area of District in Acres	..	...	...	..	...	...	74,402
Total Population, at all ages	...	...	...	..	...	...	12,953
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	...	...	...	...	...	2,561
Average Number of Persons per house	...	...	...	...	...	...	5·038

At
Census
of 1901.

TABLE XII.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH
DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
Measles .. ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Whooping Cough ...	7	4	3	..	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup...	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Croup .. ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
{ Enteric .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	5	I	...	I	...	I	2	...
Cholera .. ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	4	4	...	..	...	...	...	..
Enteritis	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .. ..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Erysipelas .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Phthisis	16	...	...	...	5	9	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	7	2	3	I	...	I	..	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	...	...	...	...	7	2	...
Bronchitis... ..	11	I	...	I	...	3	6	..
Pneumonia	20	5	I	...	I	6	7	...
Pleurisy ... ..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ..	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...
Alcoholism }	3	...	...	..	...	3	...	..
Cirrhosis of Liver }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of parturition	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...
Heart Diseases	17	...	...	2	I	7	7	...
Accidents	13	I	I	2	3	6	...	...
Suicides	3	...	...	..	...	2	I	...
All other causes ...	49	11	4	I	...	9	24	...
All causes	177	34	16	10	10	56	51	I

TABLE XIII.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING
THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Common Infectious Diseases.	Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria : Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Diarrhoea, all forms ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, } Gastro-enteritis, }	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Congenital Defects ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Injury at Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Want of Breast-milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	3	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: } Tabes Mesenterica }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes.	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	5
	Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	
All Causes { Certified ...		7	...	1	1	9	6	2	2	3	...	1	2	1	1	1	4	32
{ Uncertified ...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Births in the year :—Legitimate, 365 ; Illegitimate, 9.

Infant Deaths during the year :—Legitimate, 32 ; Illegitimate, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 177.

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 13,000.

TABLE XIV.—SHEWING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED WORKSHOPS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITEHAVEN DURING THE YEAR 1908, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED THEREIN.

Nature of Business.	No. of Work-shops.	Number of Persons Employed.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
Joiners	7	20	..	20
Blacksmiths	9	22	...	22
Dressmakers	5	...	19	19
Tailors	3	8	...	8
Shoemakers	6	12	...	12
Bakehouse	1	...	2	2
Painters	2	5	...	5
Flour Mixing	3	15	...	15
Confectioner	1	...	4	4
	37	82	25	107